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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)
 SUBJECT Nitric Acid Production

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1. Data have been obtained on the production of nitric acid by two important plants in the Soviet Zone as follows (data refer to the period 1950 to 1953).
2. SAG Electro-Chemical Kombinat Bitterfeld. This plant produces raw potassium nitrate, saltpeter powder and oxalic acid. Production volume monthly (increasing) is: raw potassium nitrate, 1,500 tons; saltpeter powder, 720 tons; oxalic acid, 300 tons. About 75 or 80 percent of the raw potassium nitrate has been further converted to saltpeter powder in the plant and shipped to the East in charge of Soviet guards.
3. SAG Buna Chemical Works in Schkopau. This plant manufactures about 200 to 250 tons of high purity nitric acid per month. It is packed and shipped in earthenware carboys, partly to western and southwestern Europe and partly to the East and the DDR (Soviet Zone). Shipments eastward undoubtedly go via Poland to the Soviet Union, because the cars go through to Brest. How long they stay there is unknown. The German train crews are relieved at Brest by Soviet crews.
4. The Schkopau plant also produces jet fuel from a nitro base. The daily production in 1951-1952 was estimated at about 500 to 600 kg.

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